

Appl. No. 10/029,530
Amendment dated February 8, 2005
Reply to Second Office Action of September 8, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office action dated September 8, 2004, setting forth a shortened three month statutory period for reply expiring on December 8, 2004. A petition for a two-month extension and fee is submitted herewith, extending the response period to February 8, 2005.

Claims 1 and 4-21 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 16, 17 and 18 being independent claims. In brief review, the Examiner objected to claim 21 as having an informality, and rejected independent claim 16 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102. The Examiner allowed claims 1, 4-15, and 17-21. The Examiner also withdrew his previous objections; and also withdrew his rejections regarding claim indefiniteness, and rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) of certain claims in view of cited prior art references. The Examiner withdrew his prior indication of allowability of claim 16 in view of a recent updated search performed by the Examiner.

In this Amendment, claim 21 has been amended to correct the minor informality, and independent claim 16 has been amended to overcome the cited prior art references. Accordingly, the application is believed to be in allowable condition.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 4-15 and 17-21 are allowed.

Response to Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claim 21 as having an informality in that the word "claims" should be singular. Claim 21 has been amended to correct this informality, and accordingly it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 16 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 4,156,940 to Hollingsworth et al (the "Hollingsworth" patent). The Examiner also rejected claim 16 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by U.S. Patent No. 6,477,090 to Yamaki et al. (the "Yamaki" patent).

The Examiner cites Fig. 1 of Hollingsworth as having transistors NX1, N7, and N100 as anticipating claim 16. The Examiner also cites Fig. 19 of the Yamaki patent as showing switches M33, M35, and M34 as relevant to claim 16.

In Hollingsworth, transistor Nx1 is an n-channel transistor having its gate coupled with the output of NAND gate Ox1. In Yamaki, transistor M33 is an n-channel transistor having its gate coupled with the Vtri signal which is a "trimming voltage" (Yamaki, abstract line 10) and is also described as a "control voltage Vtri determined by trimming data" (Yamaki, col. 21, lines 15-16). See also Fig. 1 of Yamaki, where the Vtri signal is described at col. 10, lines 45-48: "The control voltage Vtri is generated by a control voltage generating circuit 10 on the basis of control data (hereinafter to be referred to also as trimming data) datain [sic]."

Claim 16, as amended, recites in part, "wherein the first switch is a p-channel transistor having its gates coupled with a positive supply voltage signal." Because neither Hollingsworth's first transistor NX1 nor Yamaki's first switch M33 are a "p-channel transistor having its gate coupled with a positive supply voltage signal," claim 16 is believed to be allowable over the cited structures of Hollingsworth and Yamaki.

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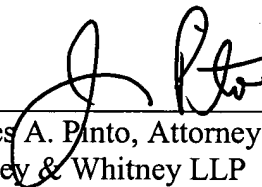
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, claims 1 and 4-21 were pending in the application, with claims 1, 4, 6, 12, 16, 17 and 18 being independent claims. The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such prompt allowance is earnestly requested.

No fees are believed to be due with this Amendment beyond the two-month extension fee (attached hereto). However, if any additional fees are required, please consider this a petition therefore and please charge such fees to Deposit Account number 04-1415.

Respectfully submitted,

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